



FEBRUARY 2021

NAVIGATOR NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the PEI Community Navigators,
an initiative of CBDC West Prince Ventures

IN THIS ISSUE...

Welcome from
Maxine Rennie
PAGE 1

Western PEI
Navigator Update
PAGE 2-3

Central PEI
Navigator Update
PAGE 4-5

Eastern PEI
Navigator Update
PAGE 6-7

February Calendar
PAGE 8



Individuals and families who choose to settle in rural PEI offer **incredible value to the communities that they settle**. In each of our numerous communities dotting the coastline or the inland rolling hills of our Island, you'll find a diverse group of community members who settled in PEI or were born as Islanders, **coming together to help each other and create a prosperous and fulfilling life in Rural PEI**.



Message from Maxine Rennie Executive Director CBDC West Prince Ventures

We sometimes think of winter as a time of hibernation, but not so for our PEI Community Navigator Team! In each region, the Navigators have been busy connecting with new residents and working with community partners – these connections are happening at our rural skating rinks, along snowshoe trails, on sledding hills and in kitchens over delicious cultural dishes.

Our team has also spent time in the meeting room (both in person and virtually) as we connect with our funding partners, fellow settlement organizations and municipal leaders.

Wherever we may be, the PEI Community Navigators look forward to connecting with you soon.

~Maxine Rennie

All Because Two People Fell In Love...



What would you like to talk about? asked Shelly. There is so much we can talk about, I replied. Shelly personally interviewed and hired me for one of my first summer jobs as a tour guide at a local community museum. Since then, she has been a great life mentor & one of my best friends.

I would like to talk about *love*.

Valentines Day is not a significant celebration where I come from remarked Shelly, it is more a North American commercialized celebration. Oh! I totally get that and so this may seem a bit cliché, but I feel like you have an important story to tell and love is an important part of the journey that led you here...

First, let's go to where it all began, in a country called *St. Kitts & Nevis*. It is a country of two small Caribbean islands, now under one federal government rule. Formerly a British colony, they gained their Independence on September 19th, 1983. Shelly is a proud Nevisian, which means she comes from the 19 square miles island of Nevis, the smaller of two Caribbean islands. The current population is approx. 13,000 inhabitants. Shelly was born and raised in Nevis, where after she received her education, she was a legal secretary in a law firm of *Byron & Byron* for several years.

One sunny day she was at the law office, on the second story and was gazing out the balcony window. Below she spotted a handsome young gentleman and she commented to her colleague Vera Henderson, "come look at the man I am gonna to marry". That was a small joke at the time, but fast-forward 35 years and it's a statement that's true to this day!

Jim Campbell of Charlottetown, PEI was working on the small Caribbean Island of Nevis, researching marine life for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Ottawa. Shelly first thought Jim was another tourist, on an island where tourism is one of the main economic drivers, however, Jim didn't disappear, and she kept seeing him. On the Island, they had met a mutual friend from England, working in the country as an international volunteer, which was a touchpoint to bring them together.

Shelly can still vividly recall the bright orange Toyota truck that Jim drove around Nevis, he always kept it so clean. She has always had a big passion for gardening (and decorating) and so one day she set a test for Jim. She needed some manure for her garden and asked Jim to collect this manure from her Aunt's pasture. She joked that any person who would do that for another is a keeper... Luckily, Jim passed the test.

(Top Left Photo: Shelly & Jim on their Honeymoon in England.
Top Right Photo: Present day at their home in Tyne Valley.)



Telephone: 902-853-3636

Email: Scott.Smith@cbdc.ca

Facebook Group - search for:
Western PEI Community Navigator

Office: 455 Main Street
Alberton, PEI

They developed a strong *kinship* so their love continued to blossom. Not long after they met, Jim's contract was ending, which would mean he was coming home to PEI. Shelly recalled the relief when his advisors said they could renew the contract for another 2.5 years. Also, not long after they met, Shelly switched work from the lawyer's office to a company called *Caribee Clothes*, a business specializing in embroidered clothing made of sea-island cotton fabric. Shelly & Jim were happy to fashion some fine examples of this dress during our photos at the end of the interview (see pictures below). Shelly was an admin and manager within the company, and a place she fondly remembers as her last place of employment in Nevis, before their journey took them to PEI. (Note: The pineapple is a symbol of friendship!)



As time went on, Jim's contract was soon ending. He had seen an exciting job opportunity in marine biology through Holland College at the Bideford Biological Station and so he applied, not knowing what the future may hold. He came home to PEI for the interview, where he was successful as becoming the instructor for setting up the aquaculture program. Anytime they were apart, he was always sure to write Shelly many letters and make a lot of phone calls. Shelly noted this was another sign of love, as she was sure he would be served quite the phone bill at the end of each month.

In December 1986 they married in Nevis and on January 4th, 1987 they flew home to PEI (of course, in the middle of snowstorm). Shelly had previously travelled to PEI one summer to meet Jim's family before they got married, but as it was summertime, it was a showcasing of another island paradise, not like the one she was greeted with on arrival when she moved here during the snowstorm. In time, although not fond of 'feeling cold', Shelly has come to appreciate the beauty of the winter and all that PEI has to offer. One of the first things she recalls was that there were hardly any police stations, which struck her as odd, and meant that PEI is a nice & safe place.

They settled into Tyne Valley (TV), renting the home they later purchased in the heart of the area. In 1988 they had their first child Matthew, while four years later they were gifted with their daughter Lauren. They raised their family here in Western PEI and it's the place their love continues to grow to this day. Shelly discovered her love of decorating and has shared this passion with many local events. On PEI, her main career was as a curator at the Bideford Parsonage Museum for 20 years, a place she retired from in 2019 after greeting thousands of visitors to PEI over this period (and having them feel most welcomed here). She has always been active in her community, within her Anglican church faith community (first as a youth leader), teaching Sunday School, as a Lioness with local Lioness Clubs (in Nevis and here in PEI), as a CBDC board member for 8 years, and now as a Steering Committee member with this project representing the Rural Municipality of Tyne Valley. Shelly has also been a TV community counselor for the last 8 years as well. Both Jim and Shelly have always been actively involved in their communities.

We want to thank Shelly for sharing their love story and her personal journey on immigrating to PEI. As they sat to prepare for a photo today, they each had a special twinkle in their eyes that showed that their love for each other still shines brightly after all these years.

Cooking with Tomoko



The Central PEI Community Navigator was recently welcomed into the kitchen of Tomoko Sasaki Craig to cook a traditional Japanese meal for the PEI Community Navigators '**Cooking with Culture**' online winter series.

It was the Fall of 1992 when Tomoko's dream of visiting Canada came into fruition. Her planned one year vacation experience was suddenly changed by an encounter with her future husband, and then the birth of their son. **Now almost 28 years later and with the support of family and friends, Tomoko is proud to call Prince Edward Island "home".** She enjoys meeting friends and visitors throughout the years and sharing her Japanese culture through a various multicultural and community events. Tomoko's hobbies include a love of cooking, dressing up in Kimono, nature photography, and outdoor sports.

Western, Eastern and Central PEI Community Navigators will be taking turns hosting classes every Wednesday evening until March 31. Need more information about participating? Email Info.CommunityNavigator@CBDC.ca .



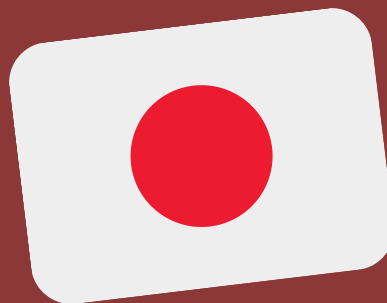
Telephone: 902-598-7560

Peggy.Miles@cbdc.ca

Facebook Group - search for:
Central PEI Community Navigator

Office: Kensington Town Hall
(upstairs)

55 Victoria Street East





Work and Study Hubs will be available to Islanders in 13 communities across Prince Edward Island. **The hubs are a space where Islanders can bring their own device to access free, reliable internet to work and learn.** This is an initiative of the Province of PEI Government.

This program recognizes the importance of internet connectivity specifically where COVID-19 has changed the way many Islanders work and learn. This pilot hopes to help in addressing this need.

Islanders may choose to visit a “Work and Study Hub” to help fulfill online needs. This pilot provides a close-to-home Wi-Fi connection.

Central PEI locations:

Bedeque – Rural Women’s Business Centre
Stanley Bridge – Stanley Bridge Hall
Kensington – Credit Union Centre
North Rustico – North Rustico Lions Club
Grand Tracadie – Grand Tracadie Community Centre

For address location and hours of operation for each site, visit:
<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/work-and-study-hubs-pilot-program>

In addition to the hub locations listed above, all public libraries provide access to the internet.

*Did you know that the following Central PEI communities have **libraries**?*

Borden-Carleton | Breadalbane
Crapaud | Hunter River
Kensington | Kinkora



Visit library.pe.ca for locations, hours and programming activities.



**Are you involved in a
Central PEI
COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATION?**



The Central PEI Community Navigator is available to meet with you; partner for activities; or do a presentation to your group about the services provided by the Community Navigator.

Maybe there are ways your organization can help to welcome new residents to the area, or perhaps you would like new residents to volunteer with you or be a member of your organization.

Reach out to Peggy,
Central PEI Community Navigator,
to discuss potential collaborations
with your organization at
902-598-7560 or
Peggy.Miles@cbdc.ca

In 1955, when Annie Nabuurs VandenBroek boarded a ship with her new husband to cross the Atlantic, she wasn't aware of the impact she would make on our small island, cradled in the waves.



Like many of the people that choose a life on the other side of the world for themselves, Annie was brave. She had survived through World War II, which began when she was 12 years old. In her book, "When the Green Letter Came Over", she writes of the moment that the war landed on their doorstep in the late summer of 1939. Her older brother and his girlfriend had left, dressed up for a night of dancing, but shortly after the radio commanded that all soldiers return to their units at once. They returned an hour later, somber and sobbing as he packed his bags. No one knew if he would return, she writes "so prayer was our only hope for a safe return."

Annie was the seventh child in a family of nine children. Her parents farmed in Holland, and she had an innate knowledge of homesteading and agriculture that helped form their livelihood in Canada. Sewing, mending, darning, and knitting were all a part of keeping the household running in Holland. When she moved to PEI and had 11 children, those skills and many more were utilized to stay afloat in their new country. Canada had been good to the Dutch during the war, and had liberated Holland in 1945.

While the country began to rebuild after the war, it was difficult to get a building permit, and any available farms were given to families with children. There was little opportunity left for the young couples, so the Dutch government offered to pay for tickets to Canadian soil. So, an ambitious and starry eyed Annie and her new Husband, Martin, boarded a ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They weren't sure if they would ever be able to return to see their families.

Annie kept in contact with her loved ones in Holland through handwritten letters, for the entirety of her 94 years. She wrote of things happening in the area, of family stories, and of the war. Annie's life long commitment was to telling stories that others were too shut off to tell, so that we may never make the same mistakes of division again.

Her book, "When the Green Letter Came Over", is a compilation of diary entries from her teenage years, stories that she gathered from peers, and photos of the time. In it, she writes "When I told people, sometimes, about my experiences, they told me to write them down. Yes, but sooner said than done! When finally all ten little birds had flown out, I got time and started to write, mostly for you, my grandchildren, who luckily only heard about WWII. ... Thank God we landed in PEI, where we found real happiness (between ups and downs) and a good education and future for our children." Like many immigrants, the idea of a better education for their children was paramount in the VandenBroek household.

They immersed themselves in Canadian culture, learning traditions and habits of islanders and threading their own knowledge and culture into the fabric of their environment. They built their small mobile feed business into a thriving brick and mortar store and raised 10 children, painting their farmhouse pink and installing indoor plumbing. Annie's children walked to and from school, and often upon their return were accompanied by other neighbourhood children, hoping to get a slice of Annie's fresh bread after school each day.

She and her husband Martin kept a meticulous vegetable garden, a necessary part of feeding 12 mouths each day. Their flower beds were also meticulous, and tulip bulbs were carefully extracted each fall, dried, and replanted each spring. The sprawling tulip fields planted by Vanco annually was a beautiful reminder of home, and she would keep tulips on her kitchen table as often as she could get them. In her later years, she sewed blankets. What began as a project to make baby blankets for just a few people, blossomed into a massive undertaking.

Not only did her 34 grandchildren each receive a blanket, she also managed to prepare one for each of her 28 great grandchildren and the four who have yet to make an appearance earthside. She didn't stop there either, she sent blankets to Kenya with the Mikinduri Children of Hope charity, gave blankets to any pregnant woman she knew, and shipped blankets all over for those connected to her. Even her nieces and nephews' grandchildren in Holland were gifted these quilts.

Annie was a part of many things, her spirit sewn into the fabric of the landscape she inhabited. She passed away on January 21, 2021 at age 94. She was a pillar of the community in Cardigan. Annie's impact through her life and her kindness could never be fully grasped. Her enormous family, born Islanders, cover the Island tip to tip. Like any new resident of a new country, she felt that she had been blessed by landing in Prince Edward Island, in a safe and prosperous country like Canada.

It is important to reflect on how this single immigration story has turned out. A family of 2 individuals moved to our small island. Here they birthed 11 children, and 10 of those children were lucky enough to grow up and be married, to have children of their own. The 34 grandchildren have never known the challenges a newcomer faces when moving to a strange country, and not knowing if they'll ever return.

It is important that we treat our new residents with respect and kindness, it is what we all deserve. Annie would like that. Let us celebrate that we are all here together.



Photos include: Martin & Annie,
Aboard the Ship, Nabuurs Family
Reunion, Lindee's Children with
Annie's Quilts



Telephone: 902-969-5989

Lindee.Gallant@cbdc.ca

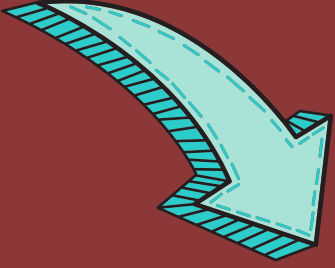
Facebook Group - search for:
Eastern PEI Community Navigator
Office: 544 Main Street, Montague
15 Green Street, Souris
(one day per week)



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

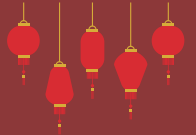


Opportunity
for
business
owners!



Black History Month

February marks Black History Month (BHM). The Black Cultural Society of PEI (BCSPEI) will use this month to celebrate the various cultures that make up the Island's Black community, and to recognize the direct link between our past and our present; acknowledging that, in fact, we are always creating history through our actions each day. In honour of Black History Month 2021, BCSPEI presents Celebrating Black Heritage: For The Culture! The BCSPEI has an incredible line up of activities happening throughout February - visit bcspei.ca or their social media channels for more information. #bhm2021 #bhmpei



February 12 | Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year marks the first new moon of the lunisolar calendars traditional to many east Asian countries including China, South Korea, and Vietnam, which are regulated by the cycles of the moon and sun.



February 14 | Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. It is a celebration of love and affection. It is customary to send greeting cards and gifts to your significant other or to friends or school mates.



February 15 | Islander Day

Islander Day is a public holiday in Prince Edward Island, where it is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed. It gives people the chance to have a day off to relax or to enjoy winter activities.




Businesses in Prince County HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY PROJECT

One year program to provide basic and practical Human Resources Management Advisory Services for businesses in Prince County.

Does your business require assistance with any of the following?

- Updating Policies & Procedures
- Performance Management
- Recruitment & Selection
- Compliance with Government Regulations
- Employee Retention & Engagement
- Updating/Creating Job Descriptions
- HR Best Practices

Contact Michelle Penwarden,
HR Advisor today!

michelle.penwarden@cbdc.ca | 902-853-3616
455 Main St., Alberton, PE C0B 1B0



CBDC Western PEI, West Prince Ventures Limited
Street Address | 455 Main Street | Alberton, PEI
Postal Address | PO Box 368 | Alberton, PEI | C0B 1B0
Telephone | (902) 853-3636



Email | Info.CommunityNavigator@CBDC.ca
Website | www.cbdc.ca/en/resources/contact-cbdc-west-prince-ventures
Like the PEI Community Navigators Facebook Page at
www.facebook.com/PEICommunityNavigators